

Torrance, California
November 12, 1940

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, November 12, 1940 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held October 22, 1940, of a Special Meeting held October 31, 1940 and of a Special Meeting held November 4, 1940 be approved as written. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization requesting certain curb and lawn improvements at the corner of 242nd Street and Hawthorne Avenue, WALTERIA.

Councilman Hitchcock stated that the City Engineer is formulating plans at the present time for improvement of the above mentioned corner, and moved that the request of the WALTERIA Civic Organization be referred to the Street Department for action. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, advising that the California Department of Motor Vehicles will establish in Torrance a temporary office for issuance of automobile license plates for 1941, and requesting police protection during the hours said office will be open.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be referred to the Police Department for report at the next meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the American Legion, Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, announcing acceptance by Post No. 170 of the sponsorship of the California Semi-Professional Baseball Tournament to be held in Torrance during 1941. Support of the City was

requested, said support to be in the same manner as has been the custom of previous years.

Councilman Murray moved that the request be granted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Logan R. Cotton, Accountant and Auditor (City Auditor of the City of Torrance), requesting permission to make certain changes in the bookkeeping system of the City of Torrance to insure greater efficiency in the keeping of records.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from B. J. Scott, 1421 Marcelina Avenue, protesting against adoption of Ordinance No. 321 (read for first reading October 22, 1940), an ordinance requiring registration of all firearms.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the Council as a whole. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from The Torrance Business Men's Association, outlining plans for its 1940 Christmas promotion program, and requesting an appropriation of \$250.00 from the City's advertising and promotion fund to help defray expenses of same.

Mr. Robert McCallum, Chairman of the above mentioned Association, made a few remarks regarding the plans, advising that a copy of the letter had been forwarded to the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilman Powell pointed out that, no matter how worthy the cause, the City cannot legally appropriate funds to individuals, or individual organizations, all such allocations of this nature to be made through the City's advertising agency, in this instance being the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. McCallum was asked to await an answer from the Chamber of Commerce before discussing the matter further.

A communication was read from Stone and Myers, Torrance, requesting a Guarantee for ambulance service, said service to be furnished for \$12.00 per month.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to the City Attorney for study and report, with authorization to draw up a contract if same is desired. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1408

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING THE GRADE OF WESTERN AVENUE (WEST SIDE ONLY BETWEEN TORRANCE BOULEVARD AND A POINT 2600 FEET SOUTHERLY FROM SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1408 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1409

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO APPROVE CERTAIN PORTION OF WESTERN AVENUE AS STREET OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1409 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett read Ordinance No. 321 in full:

ORDINANCE NO. 321

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF ALL
FIREARMS

Mayor McGuire advised that oral communications will be asked for shortly at which time this proposed ordinance can be discussed.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$152.65 be made for 1200 colored bulbs for Christmas lights. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$71.07 be made for 6 #124 Taylor Globes to be used on Torrance Boulevard. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$375.74 be made for material for repairs to intersections on Sartori Street. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. G. L. King, 1961 Plaza del Amo, asked that some action be taken on a petition submitted several months ago, which petition stated an objection to persons constructing five foot fences on the building set back line, and also objecting to carrying on of any business enterprise in the residential zones.

Chief Stroh advised that he and Councilman Powell had investigated the matter when the protest was first presented, the investigation revealing that the fence rests on the owner's property, and not on City property. Attorney McCall stated he had discussed the matter with Louis Burke, Attorney for the California Cities League of Municipalities, and with several other city attorneys, all of whom were of the opinion that the City has no authority to adopt an ordinance prohibiting persons from building five foot fences on private property.

Mr. King again voiced his other objection, namely, the carrying on of business enterprise in the residential zone.

Mr. Klusman complained about the condition of the water. Mr. King remarked that, during the water processing periods, unpleasant water is naturally to be expected, and added that the water in Torrance is no worse than water in other cities during certain periods.

Mr. Klusman asked why the proposed \$20,000.00 expenditure on Torrance Boulevard of $\frac{1}{4}$ gasoline tax funds should not be divided among several streets which are in need of curb repair, mentioning particularly Arlington Avenue. He was advised that the \$20,000.00 comprises an accumulation over a period of time of $\frac{1}{4}$ gasoline tax funds which funds have been allocated by the State for the Torrance Boulevard job and can be used on that job only. Mr. Jain pointed out that the State, in setting aside gasoline tax funds for various jobs, requires that jobs be completed before undertaking any other major street improvement.

Mayor McGuire urged that anyone interested in the proposed improvement of Torrance Boulevard examine the maps on file in the office of the City Engineer.

Mr. King asked why something could not be done about the condition of the sidewalks on Plaza del Amo, stating that large roots from the eucalyptus trees have split the sidewalk.

Attorney McCall reported that the title companies are working diligently on the Cabrillo Avenue right of way matter. He said persons who have an interest in the matter, and who must be contacted by the title companies, are located in all sections of the Country, considerable time being required to contact all these persons. Attorney McCall said some new developments should be forthcoming within ninety days.

Mr. M. S. Thorington, 1916- $\frac{1}{2}$ Gramercy Avenue, asked what the purpose of adopting an ordinance requiring registration of firearms is.

Chief Stroh said the main purpose is to aid the police department in identifying firearms in cases of thefts, burglaries, or other crimes committed with firearms.

Messrs. Pruett, Hill, King and George Craft participated in a general discussion of the merits of the proposed firearm ordinance.

Mr. E. A. Bird, Commander of the American Legion, Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, read a copy of a letter he had directed to the National Rifle Association in defense of this ordinance.

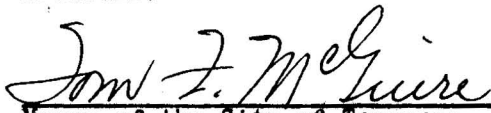
Councilman Hitchcock informed the audience that the Council had decided to submit the proposed ordinance to the League of California Municipalities before further action was taken.

Councilman Babcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 9:15 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Murray, the meeting adjourned.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance